

Magazine Feature Section

PIKE COUNTY'S BIG WEDDING

Down in Pike county, Missouri, where they raise mules and famous statesmen, there is going to be a wedding that for a time will attract the undivided attention of the whole United States.

James McIlhany Thomson, editor of the New Orleans Item, has popped the question to Genevieve Champ Clark, daughter of Champ Clark, the "war horse" of the lower house of congress, and they're going to be spliced June 30.

Of course, Genevieve Clark has been away to Washington, hob-nobbin' with Senators who wear silk hats and frock coats and don't chew tobacco and even getting to talk to President Wilson personally and goin' to them high-falutin' dances and receptions, but when it came time for her to get married she decided to come back to Pike county Missouri, and have the ceremony performed in the little Presbyterian church at Bowling Green.

Not that Pike county folks thought she wouldn't. Pike county is used to sending the mules it raises to market and the men and women it raises to prominent places in state and national politics. Of course, the county hasn't produced a president yet. It sort of had its heart set on the presidency and might have had a Pike countyan at the head of the nation had it not been for the defeat at the Baltimore convention when Bryan won the nomination for Wilson instead of for a son of Pike.

Of course, Pike county felt mighty bad about having the presidency literally jerked away from it when it had its heart set on it and it doesn't feel much love for that Mr. Bryan. Of course, Pike county stands back of President Wilson and thinks he is almost as great a man as its own Champ Clark, but it won't stand for Bryan, and so he hasn't been invited to come down to Bowling Green and see Genevieve Clark married.

However, Pike county wants President Wilson and all the other big people of the country to come to Bowling Green for that wedding, and it would like to have the eyes of the whole country centered on that beauty spot of Missouri on the day Genevieve Clark and Editor Thomson wed.

OTHER BIG PRODUCTS.

Of course, it won't be the first time Pike county has won its share of fame. Elliott W. Major, governor of Missouri, came from Pike, United States District Judge David Patrick Dyer and many other famous persons were born in that county and were sent forth to win fame for themselves and the county that raised them.

So down in this beauty spot of the state there will be great rejoicing when this prominent marriage is performed. Preparations already are being made. The farmers aided by nature are making the Clark home the most beautiful in the county as far as trees, flowers and shrubs count.

The Clark home, known as Honey Shuck, is one of those modest country homes—white frame with big porches and big trees protecting it and flowers blooming all about and giving off a sweet perfume that almost makes one go to sleep as he sits on the porch of a summer afternoon and hears the bees buzzing about the honeysuckle vines and no other sound save the occasional song of the hen as she leaves the nest.

Naturally those who must spend many months away from home as do the Clarks when Champ is at Washington aiding in making the laws and seeing that his constituents get their allotment of seeds and a copy of the Congressional Record, cannot keep the home garden and the trees as trim as they should be. But people at Bowling Green have taken care of the place and roses are blooming and shrubs running riot with color and perfume and thousands of lovely annuals are in bloom. There are several acres about the rambling old home, but the giant honey locust trees are its glory. There are the first distinct memories

of the bride to be, when as a little child she played with the fragrant flowers and swore that if ever she married it would be in June when the flowers are blooming and the ceremony would be under those same trees.

IN THE JUNGLE.

Just to the left of the wide walk leading to the Clark front door is a rustic bridge that leads to a favorite spot known to the family as the jungle.

It is a famous spot in Clark annals, for here the Speaker of the House sits during his few leisure hours in the summer and thinks out his problems and prepares many of his speeches. Mrs. Clark entertains all her guests here and tea always is a delightful treat in this cool and inviting spot. All around the wide hospitable looking veranda is a great border of hardy flowers and when June is at a close it is a splendor of regal hollyhocks.

Miss Clark is undecided as to where the wedding ceremony will be performed. She would like to have it under the spreading locust trees or in the flower garden, opposite the jungle, but if the weather will not permit the marriage will be in the little Presbyterian church at Bowling Green.

Although Miss Clark has not finally decided upon her bridesmaids, it is believed they will be her two cousins, Miss Anne and Susan Ben-

MISS GENEVIEVE CLARK



MISS CLARK AND HER FATHER LEAVING "HONEY-SHUCK" FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

son says, she does not remember it and the black "mammy" is dead.

Not since the winter of 1902, when President and Mrs. Roosevelt presented their eldest daughter, Alice Lee, affectionately called Princess Alice to society, has so popular a maid been part of official Washington. She made a debut, as all well-conducted girls do, two years ago, when she had just passed her eighteenth birthday, but it was altogether a supererogatory affair, since, in the language of her mother, it was silly to talk of her coming out, as she had never been in.

Miss Clark was courted by the bachelor Representatives, but the true romance that presaged the wedding in June did not come until during the Baltimore convention.

It was when Miss Clark, overcome by her feelings of resentment when she saw her father's defeat for the Presidential nomination could not be prevented, then fell exhausted in the arms of her school chum, Miss Imogen Thomson, sister of the man who is to become Miss Clark's husband, James Thomson, although he had important duties at the convention, gave up the afternoon to consoling Miss Clark and returned with her to Washington.

After that the two became fast friends and recently he proposed and was accepted on one condition—that the ceremony be performed at Bowling Green, Pike county, Mo. Of course, Thomson readily consented, but the Speaker demurred on the ground that Congress might remain in session during the summer and he be compelled to stay at Washington. Miss Clark then told the Speaker that regardless of whether or no Congress remained in session she was going to be married in Bowling Green and the ceremony was to be in the latter part of June—the month when roses are blooming their very best in Pike county.

War Reduces Crime.

The astounding decrease in crime in Paris since the outbreak of war is attributed by Alfred Capus, in an editorial in the Figaro, not to the war itself but the atmosphere of military discipline which has imbued all the citizens since the beginning of hostilities.

"There have not been," says he, "more than two or three really criminal acts in the last five months. Even the Paris apaches have acted in moderation."

"This cannot be attributed to the war alone, for I remember hearing a magistrate say at the beginning of the struggle: 'Here in Paris, in the void caused by the mobilization, must be feared the growth of a mob of little apaches of from 14 to 16 years, who will constitute one of the gravest dangers of the entire situation.'"

"The pessimism of this magistrate has not been confirmed by experience. Not a single young bandit has attempted to commit any startling crime, either of assassination or of violence."

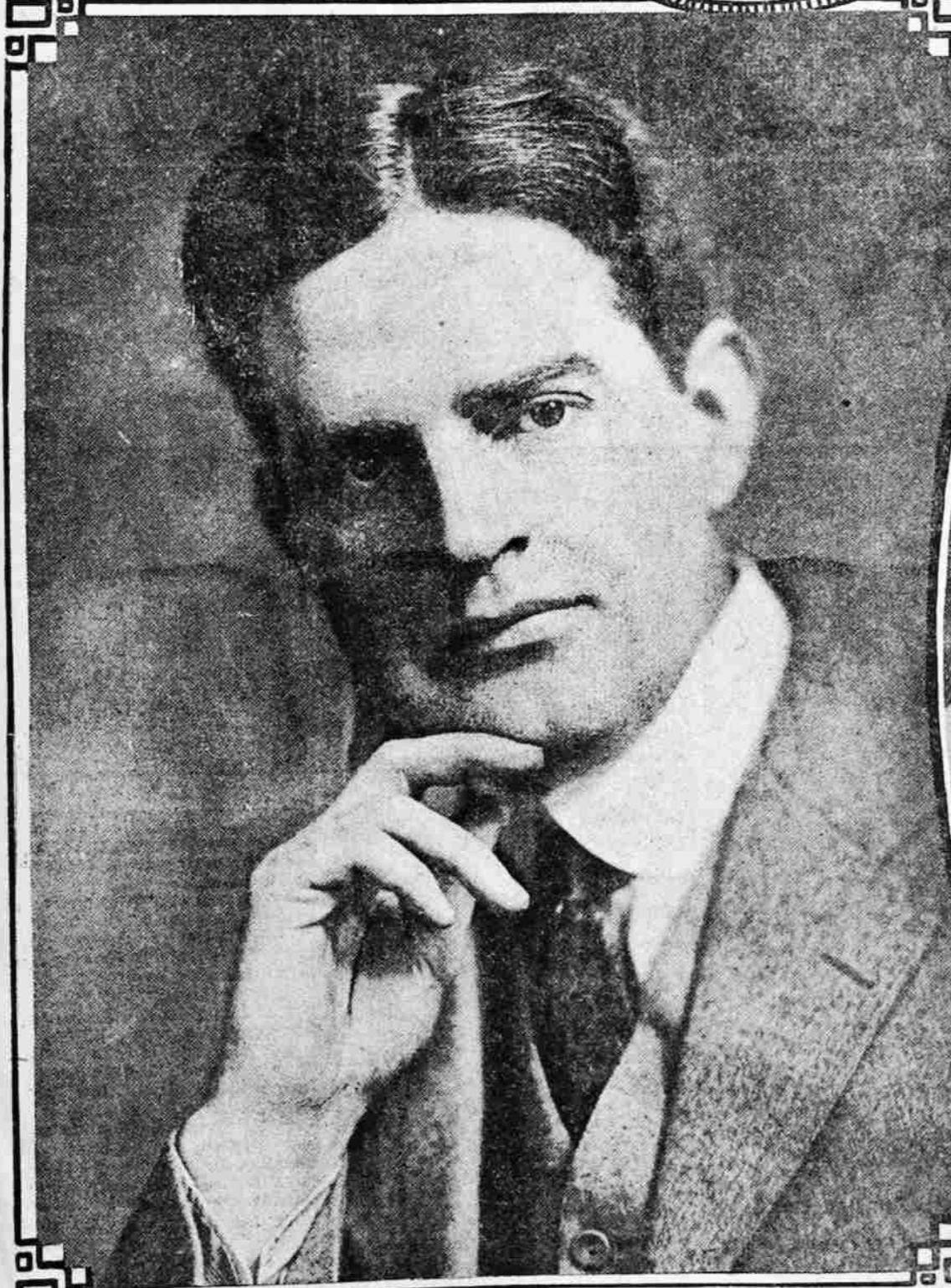
"This is because the criminal instinct, combined with the opportunity, does not of itself produce crime. There must also be a special atmosphere, created either by, for example, bravado, or by the literature of the outer boulevards, and in which this instinct may flourish."

"Then, at a given moment, the scattered electricity condenses in the individual who serves as the pole and the spark, which is the crime, jumps between him and society."

"The war has, for the present, suppressed in Paris the center in which the malefactor flourishes, and the social state which, by its effervescence and disorder, attracts this malefactor. Anarchy in high places provokes temptation in lower spheres."

"It spoils the effect, doesn't it, to tell a boy how industrious is the bee, and then let him think of how we rob the bee of the fruits of its industry?"

Gillieud Miegler would have played with his children for an hour before they went to bed last night, but he had to put in that hour reading a magazine article on "Why Men Should be Comrades of Their Children."



JAMES McILHANY THOMSON

nett of Kansas City, Mo.: Miss Murray Sanderson, Bowling Green; Miss Jean Roberts, Alexandria, and Misses Imogen and Dorothy Thomson, Summit Point, W. Va., sisters of Mr. Thomson. New Orleans and Summit Point friends of Mr. Thomson will serve as ushers.

NOTED GUESTS.

The ceremony will be performed by Rev. Robert Sherman Boyd, pastor of Lee Memorial Presbyterian church of Louisville, Ky., who was married to Miss Belle Herndon of Fulton, Mo., a niece of Mrs. Clark, about five years ago.

In addition to the guests of local significance there will be scores of friends from every section and the

little village will see the liveliest days in its annals. Even the great hotels of St. Louis will be taxed and when the gifts begin to heap up, gifts of jewels, of gold and silver, of precious stuffs in painting and art, of wonderful curios, laces and embroideries, it will tax even the excellent police service of the city to provide sufficient guardians.

After the buffet luncheon following the ceremony at 4 o'clock there will be dancing.

Naturally Missouri is solicitous about this lucky young man who has won the lovely girl, in every sense the national belle. And it is comforting to know he seems altogether worthy of the boon which fortune sent him. Genevieve Champ Clark

is a daughter of Dixie and she could not really care for anyone who felt hostile to that sacred cause. She had her gallants among the northern wing of bachelor legislators and in the country generally, but, somehow, a man of the South was always in the background of her mind as the Prince Charming.

The Thomsons are of Scotch origin and the first ancestor of the groom-to-be came to the colony of Virginia in the first half of the eighteenth century, a minister of the church of England and one of the first permanent shepherds of souls in the colony. He settled in Fauquier county and from the same environment comes the mother of Miss Clark's fiancé, who was Eliza-

beth McIlhany, descendant of revolutionary heroes of London county. Coming of patrician and aristocratic lineage, the Thomsons had in every generation a minister and a physician.

Dr. Thomson selected his son as his successor in the splendid practice which he had established in the countryside, and young Jim went to Johns Hopkins University and for a time thought seriously of a medical career. But with the gaining of his A. B. degree he wavered first toward

the law and then literature, and finally cast his lot with the latter via the journalistic way. He was a cub reporter in Washington early in his career and he has memories of seeing the charming little daughter of the present Speaker of the House when she had a black "mammy" in attendance. But he cannot prove this entirely. Although Miss Genevieve was about 4 years old then and had a "mammy" as nurse and may have been taking the air in the Capitol Park at the time Mr. Thom-



THE BIG LOCUST TREE

MISS CLARK IN A CHARACTERISTIC POSE